

UNCLASSIFIED

SENT BY:

4- 7-95 : 3:42PM :

LY-DHA-NY-

8415443: # 2

RELEASED IN FULL

ZAGA

Note

RWANDA OPERATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

16 March 1995, 10:00 a.m.- 16:00 p.m.

UN Secretariat Conference Room 5, New York

Summary:

Mr. Peter Hansen, Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, chaired the meeting of the Rwanda Operational Support Group (ROSG), held on 16 March 1995. Participants included representatives from fourteen countries, four organizations and the United Nations system.

In reviewing the situation in Rwanda, the ROSG focused attention on the delivery of international assistance and on related, as well as other, actions by the Government of Rwanda. It recognized that the ability of the Government to carry out measures aimed at ameliorating prevailing conditions was linked, in large measure, to the rapid receipt of donor pledges. In this context, the ROSG also agreed that the Government must live up to expectations regarding human rights and be receptive to concerns of the international community. The Group also realized that the situation in Burundi remained unstable and dangerous. There was, therefore, a need for concerted international efforts to prevent a conflict from erupting and to facilitate stability and reconciliation in Burundi.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

SENT BY:

4- 7-95 : 3:42PM :

UN-DHA-NY-

04154443: 3

I. Introduction

1. Mr. Hansen, Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, convened an ad-hoc meeting of the ROSG, on 16 March to review the deteriorating situation in Rwanda against the background of the continuing crisis in Burundi. The meeting was attended by senior representatives from Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and the United States, the European Community (EU), the Organization of African Unity, the World Bank and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as well as the concerned organizations of the UN system.
2. The attachments to the Note are:
 - the agenda
 - a list of participants
 - the details of contributions announced, and
 - a note from the World Bank

II. Review of the situation in Rwanda

(a) Assessment of recent trends and their implications

3. The ROSG generally agreed with the analysis of the situation reflected in the background paper distributed prior to the meeting. Troubling trends were developing: arms flows to former RGF and Interhamwe, rapidly increasing population in detention centres; lack of progress on the political agenda; the slow return of IDP's and deteriorating conditions in these centres; and severe food shortages. In this context, the urgent provision of international assistance was deemed to be of pivotal importance. While recognizing Rwanda's general lack of means to deal with its various difficulties, ROSG members nevertheless expressed the view that the Government could take measures aimed at accelerating progress in the political field. Government actions in this direction would favourably be interpreted by ROSG members.
4. The chairman noted that Rwanda was at the crossroads. Rapid delivery of assistance was essential to prevent Rwanda from spiraling downwards into yet another crisis. Pledges should be converted quickly into disbursements.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

SENT BY:

1- 7-95 : 3:43PM :

LY-DHA-NY-

94124433:2 4

-2-

(b) Detention centres

5. The ROSG expressed concern about the increasing number of detainees and also about the appalling conditions in detainee centres. While it regarded this situation as pointing to the urgent need for the establishment of a functional judicial system, it also expressed the view that the lack of government action to alleviate the situation was unsatisfactory. It was suggested that women, children and elderly should be released.
6. The United Nations and the ICRC provided the following information:
 - o UNDP had signed a project document to rehabilitate the prisons. Despite occasional bureaucratic delays, it was making progress with respect to the implementation of its development programme.
 - o UNHCR indicated that the fear of arrest had contributed to fewer refugees returning to Rwanda and that former government leaders were taking advantage of this situation.
 - o UNICEF was working with the Ministry of Justice to address the special needs of children held in detention centres.
 - o The High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR) released \$200,000 from its own budget as a contribution to the programme. HCRC appealed to donors to make contributions in support of the programme.
 - o ICRC indicated that there would soon be as many as 30,000 detainees. The death rate at the centres was ten times greater than that of the average for African countries. It had issued a memorandum on 1 March calling for the establishment of temporary camps to alleviate the overcrowding detention centres.
7. The chairman concluded that an unacceptable situation existed in the detention centres. With upfront assistance, the Government could be "motivated" to improve the terrible conditions found in the detention centres and improve its arrest procedure.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

SENT BY:

4- 7-85 : 3:43PM :

LN-DHA-NY-

8413443: 5

-3-

(c) Food pipeline

8. The EU, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States announced food aid pledges/contributions. Japan indicated that it would make a new contribution.
9. The World Food Programme (WFP) provided the following:
 - o Regional food shortages announced in its Alert of November 1984 have reached a critical stage. It was now reducing food rations by as much as 50% in some distribution centres. It feared that decreasing food aid would not only effect the health of beneficiaries, especially children and the elderly, but that it could also give rise to heightened tension, endangering the beneficiaries and relief personnel alike.
10. While acknowledging recent announcements responding to the urgent request by WFP/UNHCR, the chairman observed that there continued to be a shortfall in the amount of some \$230 million, with regard to the requirements for essential operational support to Rwanda he called for additional contributions. (The requirement for food and related cash for essential operational support totaled \$385 million for 1995, of which \$155 million had been pledged.)

(d) Update of situation in refugee camps

11. UNHCR provided the following:
 - o Some improvement in security was noticeable in the camps in Zaire and Tanzania. It was working towards building up a contingent of 50 international supervisors and 1,500 Zairian officers. The main activities of these security personnel were to ensure the existence of law and order and to escort refugees to the border. On the arrangement in Tanzania, there were advisors from the Netherlands working with some 300 Tanzanian police officers. It needed to increase the number of Tanzanian officers to 400. This entailed a financial requirement of \$2.1 million.
12. The chairman concluded that the food shortages could reverse the recent improvement in security. He reiterated that UNHCR needed advisors and funds for its security operation entrusted to it by the Secretary-General and also some \$2.1 million for its operation in Tanzania.

UNCLASSIFIED

-4-

III. International support for Rwanda**(a) The International Tribunal for Rwanda**

13. The United States recalled SCR 978 which urged the international community to detain any person who might have committed genocide. It provided information about an NGO, Open Society Institute, which was calling for the establishment of an International Coalition of Conscience (CC), to support the principles and objectives of the Tribunals. Membership to the ICC would be open to NGOs and IGOs.
14. Sweden announced a contribution to the Trust Fund for the International Tribunal.
15. The United Nations provided the following:
 - o Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) sent to Kigali a core investigative unit. It would send a team to Tanzania for discussions with government authorities on the establishment of the seat of the Tribunal in Arusha. OLA expressed satisfaction with the progress made to date.
 - o HCHR Monitors were communicating their findings to the Tribunal office.
16. The chairman urged that the work of the Tribunal be further expedited and requested OLA to continue its efforts in that direction.

(b) National judicial system

17. The chairman drew attention to the fact that the Special Representative viewed this issue as "top priority".
18. Sweden announced that it would contribute to the programme.
19. UNDP provided the following:
 - o It met with the Minister of Justice on 15 March 1995 who agreed with the establishment of a consultative group to support activities geared to the improvement of the judicial system. The group would meet monthly and its members include representatives from the Ministries of Justice, Defence, Interior, Plan and Rehabilitation, as well as the representatives of Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, the EU,

-5-

HCHR, HCR, ICRC, and UNDP. UNDP also advised that the programme to support the National Judicial Systems was budgeted at \$25 million, including \$15 million for the recruitment of 300 expatriate judges.

20. The chairman requested UNDP to be the contact point for missions visiting Rwanda for purposes related to the judicial system.

(c) Human Rights Monitors

21. The chairman briefed on the financial situation of the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda.
22. Canada, Sweden and the United States announced contributions to the Human Rights Monitors programme. Within the context of the E.U. programme, France and Germany also announced their contributions.
23. The ROSG pointed out that it would be important to learn about the findings of the monitors.
24. The chairman concluded that ROSG members found that the information flow from Monitors was inadequate and requested HCHR to actively provide feedback from the Monitors to the ROSG members.

IV. International assistance: Immediate support for the Government

25. The chairman informed that some 20% of \$587 million pledged at the January Round Table meeting had been disbursed and that response to the Consolidated Appeal was also at 20% of requirements.
26. New Zealand requested to be informed about the status of the Trust Fund and on its use. The chairman replied that it had received cash contributions amounting to nearly \$1.9 million. Copies of a progress report describing activities using the Fund were circulated.
27. The EU, Canada, Germany provided details of their contributions.
28. The United Kingdom announced that it was ready to consider the financing of projects in priority areas.

-6-

29. The World Bank provided the following:
- o It expressed concern that government expenditures including military expenditures were growing too quickly. It was important for the Government to keep control over expenditures including the size of civil service. The World Bank also emphasized that lack of action on resolving property rights was impeding economic recovery.
 - o The disbursement of the \$50 million Emergency Recovery Credit would take about 12 to 14 months. Maximum efforts were being made to implement the project as quickly as possible. One such difficulty related to the implementation capacity which had been resolved by the selection of an execution agency which will do the procurement and management aspects of the project. However, the ratification by the National Assembly was necessary to make the credit effective. ROSG's influence may be helpful in expediting this governmental process.
30. During the ensuing discussions, the concern emerged that, despite the Bank's efforts, the disbursement process would still take too long; hence the crucial question of how was Rwanda to manage affairs between now and the receipt of the Bank's disbursements.
31. The chairman concluded that the need for immediate support was most pressing. The Trust Fund could continue to serve as a vehicle to channel funds to the Government. Rwanda needed immediate assistance. Without it, the willingness/ability of the Government to consider the political issues and to establish the rule of law, particularly in areas of property rights and civil protection, would be limited at best.

V. Other business

(a) Burundi

32. The United States explained that the volatile situation in Burundi warranted active preventive diplomacy efforts and an examination of preparedness measures. In this context, its current activities included:
- support to the SRSO
 - dispatch of senior officials
 - the President's radio speech calling for peace and reconciliation

-7-

- ▶ cash contributions to the peace and democracy, human rights and OAU activities
 - ▶ support to the judicial system
 - ▶ support to NGO's
 - ▶ denial of US entry visas to those who may try to incite violence in Burundi
 - ▶ support to the OAU's Security Council's Presidential Statement.
33. Regarding the preparedness measures, the United States believed that, in the context of deploying an international force, it might be useful to review the capacity of UNAMIR and to discuss with OAU its possible contributions.
34. Belgium agreed with the United States on the critical role played by the SRSG.
35. In addition to supporting the view of the United States, Tunisia informed that OAU decided to increase its observers from 47 to 60 and to extend their stay by another three months. The United States requested that the OAU observers' findings be reported.
36. The chairman circulated the HCHR's request for \$3.2 million to cover the costs of fielding additional 35 monitors to Burundi. He concluded that concerted efforts for Burundi must continue to ensure its breaking out from the cycles of violence and destabilization.